



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnies Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful half-term break and are feeling refreshed. It is lovely to have the children back in school, ready for another busy and exciting half-term of learning.

As I was walking around the school this week, I heard Christmas songs being sung! I can't believe we are already approaching the end of the year! The festive spirit is definitely starting to build.

Teaching and learning review

Each term, we carry out a Teaching and Learning Review led by external partners. The purpose of these reviews is to gain an objective perspective on the quality of education we provide for our pupils and to identify the next steps in our ongoing improvement journey. I am extremely proud of our dedicated team; they consistently demonstrate, day after day, the impact of their hard work and commitment to excellence.

The day concluded with our external partner expressing how highly impressed she was by the quality of teaching and learning across the school, as well as by pupils' positive attitudes and exemplary behaviour for learning. The report recognised significant progress in the consistency of classroom practice, the depth of subject knowledge among staff, and the high levels of pupil engagement. These outcomes reflect the collective effort of the entire team and our unwavering focus on providing the very best education for every child. None of this would be possible without your continued support and commitment. Thank you for everything you do to support the school.

Oracy

As a school, we have been focusing on developing pupils' oracy skills – the ability to speak with confidence, listen actively, and express ideas clearly and respectfully. Strong oracy skills support children's learning across all subjects and help them develop confidence, empathy, and teamwork.

We would love you to support this important work at home. Here are some simple ways you can help:

- **Encourage conversation:** Take time each day to talk about your child's day, what they enjoyed, and what they learned. Ask open-ended questions like "What was the most interesting thing you found out today?"
- **Model good speaking and listening:** Let your child see how you take turns in conversation, make eye contact, and listen carefully before responding.
- **Share stories together:** Read aloud to your child and encourage them to retell stories, describe characters, or predict what might happen next.





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- **Play speaking games:** Try activities like “20 Questions,” “Guess the Object,” or “Would You Rather?” to make speaking and listening fun.
- **Encourage full sentences:** Remind your child to speak in clear, complete sentences and explain their thinking.
- **Build vocabulary:** Introduce new words naturally in conversation and talk about their meanings in different contexts.

Together, we can help every child grow into a confident communicator, able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and thoughtfully in any situation.

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is key to every child's success in school. When children attend regularly, they build strong learning habits, make steady progress, and feel fully part of school life. Even small amounts of missed learning can make it harder for children to keep up, affecting both confidence and achievement. We understand that children may sometimes need to stay at home when unwell, but please make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day they are able. Every day really does count – arriving on time and ready to learn helps children make the most of every opportunity. Thank you for your continued support in helping us give every child the best start possible.

Key dates for next week

10th November to 14th - Anti-Bullying Week - Power for Good

Monday 10th November - Individual School Photos

Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance Day

Friday 14th November - Y5 coffee morning

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and a chance to relax after a busy week.

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

